

**From:** <Kashieka\_Minor@ios.doi.gov>  
**To:** [Randal\\_Bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov)  
**Subject:** DCN: EST-00002852 - Antiquities Act - Papahanaumokuakea Marine NM  
**Date:** Thursday, August 31, 2017 7:12:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [2852 in.pdf](#)

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Please review.

## United States Senate

June 6, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
ATTN: Mr. Micah Chambers, Acting Director  
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross:

I am writing to contribute my perspectives for your review of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) pursuant to Executive Order 13792. I am confident that after an impartial review of all the evidence, you will conclude that:

- robust engagement led to substantial changes to the original expansion proposal;
- the revised proposal had overwhelming support from Hawai'i leaders and constituents;
- scientific, cultural, and environmental benefits justify the expansion;
- the expansion has caused no economic harm to fishermen; and
- no further modifications to the PMNM are warranted.

### **OVERVIEW**

A group of influential Native Hawaiians proposed expanding the PMNM in January 2016. Environmental groups and scientists embraced the proposal, but the fishing community and many political leaders expressed concerns. By listening carefully to all parties, I offered a modified proposal that caused no economic harm to fishermen and provided Native Hawaiians with a greater management role, while retaining the scientific, environmental, cultural, and historical benefits. Public meetings confirmed overwhelming support for my proposal, and on August 26, 2016, the President issued Proclamation 9478, which expanded the PMNM under the terms I proposed.

The expansion has created positive results:

- The entire PMNM is open to recreational fishing.
- Small boat, mixed-use recreational and subsistence fishing remains unchanged.
- Commercial fishermen are on track to their most profitable year ever.
- Hawai'i's tourism revenues have increased.
- Tuna and shark stocks are likely to recover faster.
- Corals, endangered seabirds and Hawaiian monk seals will have improved habitat.
- War graves from the Battle of Midway will be protected.
- Native Hawaiians will have a co-equal voice in the management of the PMNM.

Simply put, we did the right thing the right way, and Hawai'i is now seeing the benefits.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

**Introduction.** The decision to expand the PMNM on August 26, 2016, occurred only after the Administration encouraged and considered substantial public feedback, and, in fact, Presidential Proclamation 9478 reflected a variety of disparate views. From the initial request by a group of influential Native Hawaiians to the proclamation itself, the Administration conducted robust engagement to ensure that all stakeholders had an opportunity to provide input. Officials from Washington, D.C., flew to Hawai'i to meet with stakeholders, and the Administration solicited public comments either in writing or in person at two public meetings held in Honolulu and on Kaua'i.

These engagement efforts led to significant changes from the initial request, and, eventually, won support from many community leaders who had initially questioned or opposed expansion including the following individuals:

- Hawai'i Governor David Ige
- U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
- U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
- State Senator and Senate President Ron Kouchi (Kaua'i)
- State Representative and Vice Speaker John Mizuno
- State Representative Angus McKelvey
- Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho

**Background—Presidential Proclamation 8031.** On June 15, 2006, President George W. Bush signed Presidential Proclamation 8031, which established what was initially called the Northwestern Hawaiian Island (NWHI) Marine National Monument. This proclamation placed the emergent lands and the oceans out to fifty nautical miles under a strict conservation regime to conserve coral reefs and to protect endangered seabirds, turtles, and Hawaiian monk seals. Commercial and recreational fishing were completely banned, but fishing as part of Native

Hawaiian cultural practices was allowed by permit. Because of the strong significance of this area for Native Hawaiians, the monument was subsequently renamed the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The name Papahānaumokuākea commemorates the union of two Hawaiian ancestors – Papahānaumoku and Wākea – who gave rise to the Hawaiian Archipelago, the taro plant, and the Hawaiian people.

The initial establishment of the PMNM was built on a century of presidential actions to protect the NWHI:

President Theodore Roosevelt—1903 and 1909  
President Franklin D. Roosevelt—1940  
President Lyndon B. Johnson—1967  
President Ronald Reagan—1988  
President William J. Clinton—1996  
President George W. Bush—2002, 2004, and 2006  
President Barack Obama—2016.

This record of presidential intervention reflects the growing understanding of the scientific, cultural, and conservation value of the NWHI by the United States. Internationally, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated PMNM as a World Heritage Site on July 30, 2010, because of its globally significant natural and cultural assets.

**First Steps Towards Expansion—The Native Hawaiian Proposal.** On January 29, 2016, a group of respected Native Hawaiian leaders wrote to the President and asked him to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to expand the PMNM. (See Exhibit A, the Native Hawaiian Proposal.) They described the cultural significance of the NWHI, and emphasized its scientific importance as an intact large-scale ocean ecosystem that supported wildlife of many kinds, including endangered Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and sea birds.

Culturally, Native Hawaiian beliefs identify this region as the place of creation; historically, the islands were used by Native Hawaiians; and today, they are one of the last places where it is possible to experience the ocean in much the same condition as their forebears did when they came to Hawaii. This group of Native Hawaiian leaders praised the initial establishment of the PMNM as a positive first step, but they advocated further action to preserve the region and proposed, generally, to expand the PMNM out to the full 200 nautical miles of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), except for the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI).

This proposal drew support from the environmental and scientific communities, and the Pew Environmental Group developed a map to depict a proposal that would expand PMNM's boundaries to the maximum extent possible consistent with the request of the Native Hawaiian

leaders. (See Exhibit B, Pew Proposed Map.) Fishermen and many community leaders, including myself, however, questioned the proposal and refused to immediately endorse it.

**Reactions—Fisheries.** Although the fishers all initially spoke in opposition to expanding PMNM, it is important to note that there are actually three distinct subsets of fishing interests that identified potential impacts from the Native Hawaiian Proposal: national recreational fishing groups, commercial longliners, and the small boat fishery from Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau.

Recreational Fishing. As noted previously, when President Bush initially established the PMNM, its waters were completely closed off to recreational fishing—which was a concern for groups such as the American Sportsfishing Association, the Center for Coastal Conservation, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association. They expressed concerns about the negative precedent of excluding recreational fishing from areas such as the PMNM because of their members’ strong commitment to conservation and the minimal impact on protected resources. These groups hoped that consideration of the Native Hawaiian Proposal would allow for a re-examination of the recreational fishing ban.

Commercial Fishing. Hawai‘i’s commercial longline fishery is one of the most profitable in the United States, and its landings of sashimi-grade bigeye tuna consistently place Honolulu as one of the nation’s top ten productive fishing seaports. This fishery is federally managed, but as a highly-migratory species, bigeye tuna moves throughout the Pacific, and quota is set under an international agreement by a body known as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Council (WCPFC), and then implemented by rules adopted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Since 2012, the longline fishery has routinely gone over its WCPFC quota, and could only continue fishing by purchasing additional unused quota from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. (See Exhibit C, Longline Quota Usage Chart, prepared by NOAA.) Moreover, NOAA recently assessed bigeye tuna as “subject to overfishing”—an early signal of the need to reduce takes and allow the stock to replenish. The interests of the commercial longline fishery are represented by its professional association, the Hawai‘i Longline Association (HLA), and by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC).

The HLA and the WPRFMC advanced several arguments. They pointed to the size of the proposed expansion, their historic take in the expansion area, and fishing restrictions in the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument as evidence that expanding PMNM would cripple their fishery. They also hired scientists to contest the scientific case for expansion, questioning the connection between the proposed expansion and protection for species in the NWHI.

**Underlying these arguments, however, was a false assumption: the longline fishery easily reaches its quota every year, with only an average of 6.5% of its catch attributable to the expanded NWHI region. In other words, the longline fleet could easily make up any “loss” from the proposed expansion by simply fishing elsewhere. (See Exhibit C, Longline Fishery Quota Usage Chart, prepared by NOAA.) In fact, based on recent conversations with the fishing industry, the longline fleet will use up all of its quota by September, and the slight delay in landing bigeye tuna has actually resulted in higher prices for the fishery and the likelihood that the industry will have its most profitable year ever.**

Small Boat Fishery. In direct contrast, Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau’s small boat fishery is comprised mostly of local Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau residents who follow a longstanding practice of fishing for recreation and putting fresh food on their tables. As a hybrid recreational and subsistence fishery primarily in state waters, the fishery participants do not have the same kind of organized representation as the longliners. If anything, however, their commitment to fishing is stronger because it is a part of their lifestyle and community identity, and losing access would put a halt to traditions going back generations. It would also force a significant number of Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau residents to purchase food to replace the fish they catch for themselves.

The immediate, tangible impacts of the Native Hawaiian Proposal on Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau’s hardworking men and women presented a compelling case to think carefully about expansion and the need to hold these communities harmless.

**Reactions—Office of Hawaiian Affairs.** The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is a state public agency responsible for improving the well-being of Native Hawaiians. In 2006, when President Bush created the initial PMNM, the State of Hawai‘i, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Interior were designated as Co-Trustees for managing the monument, while OHA only had a limited management role. After nearly ten years of experience managing the initial PMNM, however, OHA and the State of Hawai‘i concluded that OHA should also serve as a Co-Trustee to ensure that Native Hawaiians would have a more effective voice in addressing issues relating to conservation, science, and history.

Consequently, on December 16, 2015, prior to the Native Hawaiian Proposal, the State of Hawai‘i had formally requested that the Administration amend the co-management agreement for the PMNM to include OHA as a Co-Trustee with the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Interior. (See Exhibit D, Ige Request for OHA Co-Trustee Status.) Upon learning of the Native Hawaiian Proposal, OHA began advocating that any expansion proposal should elevate it to Co-Trustee status as requested by Governor Ige.

**Reactions—Community Leaders.** Faced with divided support and opposition among stakeholders, community leaders questioned the Native Hawaiian Proposal. Some initially wrote letters to oppose the proposal including Senator Kouchi who sent a letter on April 28, 2016, and

Mayor Carvalho who sent his letter on May 5, 2016. Additionally, 30 members of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives wrote a letter opposing the Native Hawaiian Proposal on May 3, 2016. (See Exhibits E, F, and G, Initial Kouchi Letter, Initial Carvalho Letter, and House of Representatives Letter, respectively.)

Others, such as myself, were undecided because we could see the potential benefits of expansion—provided we could address stakeholder concerns. As a result, on March 23, 2016, I wrote to President Obama and requested that he send officials from his Administration to meet with key stakeholder groups in Hawai'i. (See Exhibit H, Initial Schatz Letter.) On April 14, 2016, President Obama notified me that his Administration would honor my request, and I made a public statement recognizing the promise of expansion, but reiterating the concerns my constituents had expressed to me:

For Hawai'i to support the proposed expansion, the new boundaries of the PMNM will have to make sense. Residents of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau have a strong interest in maintaining their longstanding culture of fishing, and I am prepared to stand with them to ensure their continued, unchanged access to their fishing grounds. In addition, Hawai'i has a long tradition of recreational and subsistence uses of the ocean including fishing, diving, canoe paddling, and sailing. Finally, Hawai'i's longline fleet has a history of fishing in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The responsible and sustainable practices of our longline fleet have resulted in Honolulu becoming one of the nation's ten most productive fishing ports. Any expansion of the boundaries of the PMNM will have to satisfactorily take these activities into account.

Equally important, the PMNM holds special significance for Native Hawaiians, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has made a request for an enhanced role in governance of the monument. I support OHA's request for an enhanced role in governance, and I believe that an expansion declaration presents an ideal opportunity to address this issue.

Finally, expanding the PMNM will create vast opportunities to better understand the unique ecology of our Hawaiian Archipelago, but this can only occur if sufficient funding exists for research, conservation, and management in an expanded PMNM. Although the current fiscal climate limits the availability of federal funding, I believe that environmental groups, philanthropic organizations, corporations and individuals would consider significant financial commitments to support the expansion of the PMNM. I am prepared to work with President Obama and his administration to explore these options.

Provided these issues can be addressed to the reasonable satisfaction of interested Hawai'i stakeholders, I am prepared to support the expansion.

(See Exhibit I, Initial Schatz Statement.)

Senator Kouchi, Mayor Carvalho, the State House Representatives and I all made our statements in the March to early May time frame as the need for engagement regarding the Native Hawaiian Proposal became more evident. There was no guarantee that input from Hawai'i stakeholders and residents would lead to an acceptable expansion proposal, but one thing was clear: without giving concerned parties an opportunity to engage, expansion should not occur.

**A Balanced Proposal.** As a result of my request, the President sent representatives from his Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), NOAA, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Navy to meet with a large number of stakeholders and government officials, including:

- State Senator Ron Kouchi, and other members of the State Legislature who represent Kaua'i
- Representative Chris Lee and other members of the State Legislature
- Open meeting with the Hawai'i Longliner Association
- Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Governor David Ige
- Tim Johns, WCPFC Commissioner
- Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell
- Nainoa Thompson, Polynesian Voyaging Society, and co-author of the Native Hawaiian Proposal
- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Counsel
- Scientists, fishermen, and conservationists convened by the PMNM Cultural Working Group
- PACOM and PACFLT.

The Administration officials confirmed that my letter to the President had appropriately identified the three key areas of concern for stakeholders:

- The boundaries of the expansion and its potential impacts on fishing;
- The role of Native Hawaiians in the governance of the PMNM; and
- Resources to manage, enforce, and study the PMNM.

The boundaries were a particularly difficult issue because of the lack of data on exactly where the longline and small boat fisheries actually fished in the proposed expansion area, and how much they actually caught. By working closely with NOAA and the State of Hawai'i, however, my office received maps that answered those questions. (See Exhibits J and K, Longliner Use of



Proposed Expansion Area, prepared by NOAA; and Small Boat Fishery Use of Proposed Expansion Area, prepared by DLNR, respectively.)

To find the right balance, my office then engaged with everybody that CEQ had consulted with and more including fishermen from the small boat fishery, national recreational fishing groups, and community and business leaders throughout the state. By talking through these difficult issues with a variety of stakeholders, I formulated my own proposal, which I sent to President Obama on June 16, 2016. (See Exhibit L, Schatz Proposal.) It differed significantly from the Native Hawaiian Proposal because I wanted to protect the small boat fishery and to provide limited access for the commercial fishery.

To accomplish this, I proposed a sharp cut-off for expansion at 163° West Longitude. This cut-off would exclude the areas used by the small boat fishery from expansion and allow the longliners access to the same area as well. Under the Native Hawaiian Proposal, the longliners would have lost access to an area amounting to approximately 9.2% of their catch, while my boundary proposal reduced this loss to approximately 6.5% of their catch.

I also joined Governor Ige's request for OHA to become a co-trustee for the PMNM in my proposal to ensure Native Hawaiians would have a voice in managing this region. I recognized the challenge of finding resources to support managing such a huge area, and expressed my hope that the ambitious scale of the proposal would inspire commitments from federal and state government and philanthropic organizations as well. I then asked the President to conduct public meetings to solicit comments to improve my proposal.

**Reactions.** Because of the amount of time and care taken in preparing my proposal, numerous community leaders responded positively. Some, like Governor Ige, appreciated the merits of my proposal, but wanted to see the results of the public meetings I had requested. He provided this statement on June 16, 2016, the day I announced my proposal:

Like the Polynesians who first settled these islands, we can balance the management of this unique natural habitat and its historic artifacts with the needs of the human population. Sen. Schatz has addressed many of the concerns I've heard about the expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and has proposed reasonable accommodations for local fishers who are helping to feed our families. I look forward to the public process as it moves forward.

(See Exhibit M, Schatz Press on Expansion Proposal.)

Shortly after I announced my proposal, Hawai'i's two publications of record gave their support. On July 1, 2016, the Honolulu Star Advertiser published its editorial, "*Larger Marine Preserve Makes Sense,*" and Civil Beat followed suit on July 8, 2016, with its own editorial, "*Expanding*

*Marine Preserve Is the Pono Thing To Do.*” (See Exhibits N and O, *Star Advertiser* Support for Schatz Proposal, and *Civil Beat* Support for Schatz Proposal, respectively.)

On August 1, 2016, OHA also endorsed my proposal because it recognized the cultural significance of the PMNM to Native Hawaiians, established their role in managing the PMNM, and protected the small boat fishery. (See Exhibit P, OHA Statement on Papahānaumokuākea)

On August 1, 2016, U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono made her public statement on the proposed expansion, and she had a similar perspective to Governor Ige. Like all of us, Senator Hirono had heard strong opinions both for and against expansion, and she was anxious to learn what people had to say about my proposal. (See Exhibit Q, Initial Hirono Statement.)

By early August, the following elected officials had also announced their support for my proposal:

#### Mayors

- Kaua‘i Mayor Bernard Carvalho
- Hawai‘i County Mayor Billy Kenoi
- Maui County Mayor Alan Arakawa

#### State Senators

- Senator Ron Kouchi, President of the Senate, District 8
- Senator Laura Thielen, District 25
- Senator Russell Ruderman, District 2
- Senator Michael Gabbard, District 20
- Senator Josh Green, District 3
- Senator Gil Riviere, District 23
- Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, District 21
- Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, District 5
- Senator Roz Baker, District 6
- Senator Willie Espero, District 19

#### Hawai‘i State Representatives

- Representative Chris Lee, District 51
- Representative Cynthia Thielen, District 50
- Representative John Mizuno, District 28
- Representative Kaniela Ing, District 11
- Representative Matthew LoPresti, District 41
- Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, District 48

- Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, District 10
- Representative Nicole Lowen, District 6.

**Additionally, out of the 30 Hawai'i State House Representatives who had opposed the Native Hawaiian Proposal in their May 3, 2016, letter, only a handful submitted public comments opposing my proposal. Besides these few state house representatives, no member of the Hawai'i State Senate or any other elected federal, state, or county official from Hawai'i submitted public comments in opposition to my proposal.**

**Public Comments.** As requested in my proposal, the Administration held two open meetings in Hawai'i to give the public a meaningful opportunity to provide input. These meetings were held on O'ahu and Kaua'i, and written comments were also accepted on O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island to accommodate individuals who were unable to attend in person. The input received was overwhelmingly positive: by NOAA's count, the Administration received a total of 6,673 written comments in support of the Schatz proposal and only 74 against. (See Exhibit R, NOAA Summary of Comments.)

**Presidential Proclamation 9478.** After receiving the public comments, the Administration took the time to consider the matter carefully, and on August 26, 2016, the President issued Proclamation 9478, expanding the PMNM under substantially the same terms that I proposed. The Proclamation also recognized that recreational fishers should have access to the expanded area.

A number of notable leaders and groups changed their previous positions and lent support to the Proclamation because it demonstrated that the Administration had respectfully listened to stakeholders and acted on their concerns:

- Governor David Ige
- Senator Mazie Hirono
- State Senator Ron Kouchi
- Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho
- State Representative Angus McKelvey
- State Representative and Vice Speaker John Mizuno
- American Sportsfishing Association

(See Exhibits S-Y, Governor Ige Letter; Second Hirono Statement; Second Kouchi Letter; Second Carvalho Letter; McKelvey Statement; Mizuno Letter; and American Sportsfishing News Release, respectively.)

The expansion was celebrated at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC), which was convened in Hawai'i in September, 2016, as a significant demonstration of leadership by the United States.

## **SCIENCE AND CULTURE**

The scientific case for expanding the PMNM developed from lessons learned over the ten years of managing the PMNM with its original boundaries as established in 2006. Science showed that 50 nautical miles was a solid first step, but that protection out to the full 200 nautical miles of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone was warranted—both to protect the Hawaiian Archipelago, and to provide an area that could help maintain the health of the Pacific Ocean as a whole. Over 1500 scientists participating in the International Coral Reef Symposium endorsed this position in a letter dated June 24, 2016. (See Exhibit Z, Scientists' Letter.)

The expansion area also preserves the seascape originally experienced by Native Hawaiians, and protects the war graves from the Battle of Midway. For this reason, the Navy Historical Foundation expressed its support for the Schatz Proposal in a letter dated July 27, 2016. (See Exhibit AA, Navy Historical Foundation Letter.)

**Tuna Conservation.** Bigeye tuna—the mainstay of Hawai'i's profitable longline fishery—has been recognized as subject to overfishing by NOAA Fisheries, so it is imperative to take immediate action to recover the stock. Bigeye tuna forage, breed, and mature outside the 50 nautical mile boundary of the original PMNM, and increasing the area where they are protected will provide greater opportunities for them to mature and reproduce to replenish the stock.

**Endangered Species.** The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are home to approximately 95% of the remaining 1,100 wild Hawaiian monk seals, 90% of Hawaiian green sea turtles, and 98% of Laysan albatross. The ranges and feeding habits of these animals may differ, but they are interlocked with the health of the ocean—and an expansion to 200 nautical miles provides the best support possible to maintain healthy populations of the prey species they depend on for survival.

**Coral.** Coral was a major focus of the original PMNM declaration, but advances in the science since that time indicate that the original 50 nautical mile boundary provides inadequate protection. For the corals themselves, NOAA recently found a black coral estimated to be more than 4000 years old in the expansion area. Other researchers are finding evidence that suggests that coral polyps spend a part of their life cycle in the waters within the expansion area.

**Sharks.** Current statistics on shark bycatch show that the longline fleet catch one shark for every two tuna—roughly 10,000 per year. Due to the low reproductive rate and slow life cycle of this apex predator, this level of capture is a major threat to shark populations.

## **ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

The expansion of the PMNM had potential impacts for Hawai‘i’s tourism and fishing industries, but due to careful consultation and engagement, few if any negative impacts are expected, and, in fact, Hawai‘i’s economy will likely benefit in the short and long term as a result of expansion.

**Tourism.** Hawaii will directly benefit from tourism, conferences, and research opportunities related to the expansion of PMNM. For example, in the summer of 2016, Honolulu hosted the International Coral Reef Symposium in July, which resulted in approximately \$9.4 million in visitor-related spending. In September, 2016, Honolulu hosted the World Conservation Congress, which resulted in approximately \$37.7 million in visitor-related spending and \$3.6 million in tax revenues.

**Longline Fishery.** NOAA consistently reports Honolulu as one of the nation’s top ten productive seaports for fish landings. Hawai‘i’s most lucrative fishery by far is its longline fishery for bigeye tuna, which produces sashimi-grade tuna that is prized all over the world.

As noted previously, bigeye quota is set by the WCPFC, and the historic catch data demonstrate that Hawai‘i’s longline fishery routinely reaches its quota before the end of the season, which coincides with the calendar year. This timing is particularly impactful for Hawai‘i residents because bigeye tuna features prominently on holiday tables.

In order to ensure supply from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Eve, the Hawai‘i delegation and NOAA worked together to allow the fishery to purchase additional unused quota from the U.S. Pacific territories: Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. The following chart, prepared with data from NOAA, summarizes quota usage from 2012 – 2016:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bigeye Quota</b>	<b>Date of Closure</b>	<b>Additional Tonnage Used by Longliners</b>
2016	3,761 MT	7/22/16	894 MT—CNMI 939 MT—Guam
2015	3,462 MT	8/5/15	999 MT—CNMI 856 MT—Guam
2014	3,823 MT	11/15/14	1000 MT—CNMI
2013	3,654 MT	No closure	492—CNMI
2012	3,660 MT	No closure	771—American Samoa

The historical data show that the fishery has reached its WCPFC quota earlier and earlier in the year. Historical data also show limited use of the expansion area by the longline fishery. (See Exhibit J, Longline Use of Proposed Expansion Area, prepared by NOAA.) Accordingly, the economic impact arguments advanced by the longliners are specious on their face.

In fact, based on my conversations with the fishing industry this year, the expansion seems to have helped them as expected. By slowing the pace of their catch slightly—they are expected to reach quota in September—bigeye prices have risen, and they are expecting 2017 to be their most profitable year ever.

**Small Boat Fishery.** A significant amount of fish consumed by Hawai'i families comes from our small boat fishing fleet. After extensively consulting with DLNR, I determined that the small boat fleet does not fish west of 163° West Longitude, and I proposed that boundary to the President. The President adopted my suggestion, and therefore, expansion has had no impact on Hawaii's small boat fishing fleet.

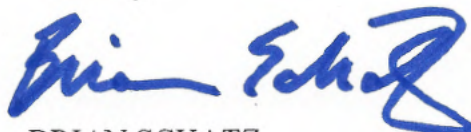
## **CONCLUSION**

The decision to expand the PMNM was not made lightly. In fact, many community leaders—myself include—had reservations. By engaging with concerned stakeholders, however, we found a path forward to align economic, scientific, cultural, and historical interests and to advance an expansion proposal that made sense.

Now with the expansion in place, I can report further progress. OHA announced that it became a full Co-Trustee of the PMNM upon the execution of a formal agreement on January 12, 2017. (See Exhibit BB, OHA Co-Trustee Press Release.) I also understand that the expansion has inspired a pledge of \$500,000 from an interested philanthropist, and that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is working to finalize the details for use of these funds.

I am proud of Hawai'i's leadership in ocean and coastal conservation, and I believe the expansion of the PMNM can serve as a model for how to do the right thing the right way.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ  
United States Senator